

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A slide fastener for opening and closing a chamber of an article, said slide fastener comprising:

5 an elongate pair of engaging portions positioned adjacent to an opening in the article;

a slide operably secured to said pair of engaging portions such that said slide joins said engaging portions together when moved in a first direction and disengages said engaging portions when moved in a opposite second direction; and,

10 an elongate pull having a first end and a second end, said pull attached to said article toward said first end, said slide operably secured to said pull toward said second end defining a handle portion between said slide and said first end.

2. The slide fastener of claim 1, wherein said slide is spaced apart from
15 said second end defining a tab portion from said slide to said second end.

3. The slide fastener of claim 2, wherein said tab portion is detachably secured to said article.

20 4. The slide fastener of claim 3, wherein said slide fastener has an opened position and a closed position, and said tab portion is detachably secured to said article when said slide fastener is in said closed position.

25 5. The slide fastener of claim 4, wherein said pull defines a storage device when said tab portion is detachably secured to said article wherein objects positioned between said engaging portions and said handle portion are operably secured to said article.

30 6. The slide fastener of claim 1, wherein said pull is a substantially planar member.

7. The slide fastener of claim 6, wherein:
said engaging structures have a first width;
said substantially planar member has a second width; and,
5 said second width is at least as wide as said first width thereby allowing said
pull to cover said engaging structures.

8. The slide fastener of claim 1, wherein said pull is a monolithic elongate
strip of material.

9. The slide fastener of claim 1, wherein said slide fastener has a base end
and an opposite end, and said pull is attached to said article substantially near said
base end.

10. The slide fastener of claim 9, wherein:
said slide is spaced apart from said second end defining a tab portion from
said slide to said second end; and,
said tab portion is detachably secured to said article substantially adjacent to
said opposite end of said slide fastener.

11. The slide fastener of claim 1, wherein:
a substantially planar surface defines where said pull is attached to said
article; and,
surface indicia is applied to an exterior surface of said substantially planar
25 surface.

12. The slide fastener of claim 1, wherein said slide fastener is a zipper.

13. The slide fastener of claim 1, wherein said slide fastener and said pull are aligned substantially vertically on said article.

5 14. The slide fastener of claim 1, wherein said article is an article of luggage.

15. The slide fastener of claim 14, wherein said article of luggage is a backpack having shoulder straps.

10 16. The slide fastener of claim 1, wherein said article is an article of apparel.

17. The slide fastener of claim 16, wherein said article of apparel is outerwear.

15 18. The slide fastener of claim 16, wherein said article of apparel has a main opening, and said slide fastener and pull are operably secured to said main opening.

20 19. The slide fastener of claim 16, wherein said chamber is a pocket attached to said article of apparel, and said slide fastener and pull are operably secured to said pocket.

25 20. The slide fastener of claim 1, wherein said article is an article of footwear.

21. The slide fastener of claim 20, wherein said article of footwear has an upper and said slide fastener and pull are operably secured to an opening in said upper.

22. The slide fastener of claim 20, wherein said article of footwear has an upper and said pull is formed from a toe portion of said upper.

23. An article of luggage comprising:
5 a container defining a chamber therein;
a slide fastener for opening and closing the chamber, said slide fastener having an open position and a closed position;
a slide engaging the slide fastener to operably transition between said open position and said closed position; and,
10 an elongate pull having a first end and a second end, said pull attached to said article toward said first end, said slide operably secured to said pull toward said second end defining a handle portion between said slide and said first end.

24. The article of luggage of claim 23, wherein:
15 said slide is spaced apart from said second end defining a tab portion from said slide to said second end; and,
said tab portion is detachably secured to said article when said slide fastener is in said closed position.

20 25. The article of luggage of claim 24, wherein said pull defines a storage device when said tab portion is detachably secured to said article wherein objects positioned between said engaging portions and said handle portion are operably secured to said article.

25 26. The article of luggage of claim 23, wherein said pull is a substantially planar member having a first width, and said slide fastener has a second width, said first width is larger than said second width such that said pull covers said slide fastener when said slide fastener is in said closed position.

27. The article of luggage of claim 23, wherein said pull is a monolithic elongate strip of material aligned substantially vertically on said luggage.

28. An article of apparel comprising:

5 a wearable covering having an opening therein;

a slide fastener operably secured adjacent to said opening, said slide fastener having an open position and a closed position;

a slide engaging the slide fastener to operably transition between said open position and said closed position; and,

10 an elongate pull having a first end and a second end, said pull attached to said article of apparel toward said first end, said slide operably secured to said pull toward said second end defining a handle portion between said slide and said first end.

15 29. The article of apparel of claim 28, wherein:

said slide is spaced apart from said second end defining a tab portion from said slide to said second end, and,

said tab portion is detachably secured to said article when said slide fastener is in said closed position.

20 30. The article of apparel of claim 28, wherein said opening is a main opening of said article of apparel and said slide fastener is operably secured adjacent to said main opening whereby the main opening may be opened or closed with said slide fastener.

25 31. The article of apparel of claim 28, wherein said wearable covering defines an article of outerwear.

32. The article of apparel of claim 28, wherein said wearable covering includes a pocket therein, and said slide fastener and pull are operably secured to said pocket.

5 33. An article of footwear comprising:
a wearable foot covering having an opening therein;
a slide fastener operably secured adjacent to said opening, said slide fastener having an open position and a closed position;
a slide engaging the slide fastener to operably transition between said open
10 position and said closed position; and,
an elongate pull having a first end and a second end, said pull attached to said article of apparel toward said first end, said slide operably secured to said pull toward said second end defining a handle portion between said slide and said first end.

15 34. The article of footwear of claim 33, wherein:
said slide is spaced apart from said second end defining a tab portion from said slide to said second end, and,
said tab portion is detachably secured to said article when said slide fastener
20 is in said closed position.

25 35. The article of footwear of claim 33, wherein said opening is in an upper of the article of footwear and said slide fastener is operably secured adjacent to said opening.

36. The article of footwear of claim 32, wherein said article of footwear has an upper and said pull extends from a toe portion of said upper.

37. A pull for a slide fastener attached to an article, the slide fastener having a base end, an opposite end, an elongate pair of engaging portions, and a slide for operably engaging the pair of elongate engaging portions, said pull comprising:

an elongate strip of material attached to the article toward a first end;

the slide operably secured to said pull toward said second end, thereby defining a handle portion of the elongate strip of material between said pull and said first end.

38. The pull for a slide fastener of claim 37, wherein:

the slide fastener has an open position and a closed position;

the elongate pair of engaging portions have a first width; and,

the pull has a second width at least as wide as said first width.

39. The pull for a slide fastener of claim 37, wherein said elongate strip of

material is substantially planar defining an interior surface and an exterior surface, said exterior surface having surface ornamentation thereon.

40. The pull for a slide fastener of claim 37, wherein the slide fastener has an open position and a closed position, and said handle portion forms a loop of material when the slide fastener is in said open position.

41. A method for operating a slide fastener on an article, the slide fastener having an elongate pull, the elongate pull attached near a base end of the slide fastener toward one end and operably secured to a slide of the slide fastener toward an opposite second end thereby defining a handle portion therebetween, the slide spaced apart from the second end defining a tab portion from said slide to said second end, the tab portion being detachably secured to the article near an opposite end of the slide fastener from the base end, said method for opening the slide fastener comprising the following steps:

detaching the tab portion of the pull from article;

grasping the handle portion of the pull; and,
urging the slide toward the base end of the slide fastener by moving the handle portion in a direction toward the base end thereby opening the slide fastener on the article.

5

42. The method for operating the slide fastener of claim 41, further including closing the slide fastener, said method comprising the following steps:

grasping the handle portion of the pull;

urging the slide toward the opposite end of the slide fastener by moving the handle portion in a direction toward the opposite end of the slide fastener; and,
detachably securing said tab portion of the pull to the article.

10

43. The method for operating the slide fastener of claim 42, further including using the pull as a storage device for an object, said method comprising the step of extending the object between the handle portion of the pull and the slide fastener with the tab portion detachably secured to the article such that the object substantially straddles the pull, thereby holding the object in place.

15

44. The method for operating the slide fastener of claim 41, further comprising the step of applying surface ornamentation to an exterior surface of the pull.

20

45. The method for operating the slide fastener of claim 41, wherein a person performs the steps of this method while wearing gloves.

25